
Response from Youngstown State

Ron Cole <racole01@ysu.edu>

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To: "kjacoby@gatehousemedia.com" <kjacoby@gatehousemedia.com>

Cc: Holly A Jacobs <hajacobs@ysu.edu>

Hi Kenny,

Below is a statement from Youngstown State University in response to your questions submitted last week to Holly Jacobs in our General Counsel's office. I'm hoping that this information, coupled with the public records that have been provided, gives you a clearer idea of the incident and YSU's response.

Please advise the status of your story and when/where it is likely to be published.

Sincerely,

Ron Cole

Youngstown State University takes the issue of sexual violence very seriously. Regarding the incident in question, the university undertook a timely and extensive investigation followed by the student disciplinary process. These processes, which included respondent/student appeals, resulted in one student/respondent being expelled from the university and two being suspended. One of the suspended students did not reapply to the university. The other suspended student successfully completed the university mandated suspension and Title IX training and then re-applied and was re-admitted to the university in fall 2017. For one semester, spring 2018, this student, who had previously been a scholarship athlete, was permitted to return to the tennis team, after which his athletic eligibility expired. In fall 2018, while still attending classes at YSU, he became a volunteer, non-paid student assistant with the tennis team, under the supervision of the tennis coach. For one semester, spring 2019, the student also was employed as a paid intern in the Athletics office. From the time he returned to the university in fall 2017 to the time he graduated with a bachelor's degree in spring 2019, the student was not involved in any further incidents. He is no longer on campus in any capacity.

As to some of your other questions: We have not received any reports of sexual misconduct, or misconduct of any kind, involving student Ma'lik Richmond. We have not, to our knowledge, hired any coaches or employees who have been convicted or otherwise disciplined for sexual misconduct. We conduct background checks when hiring all new faculty and staff employees, including coaches.

The university's student disciplinary process is designed to be educational and not merely punitive. The university holds students accountable and enforces appropriate sanctions for their actions. YSU is committed to the highest standards and best practices in supporting anyone affected by sexual misconduct or interpersonal violence. We provide those affected with both university and community resources as well as appropriate accommodations. Creating a safe and secure campus environment for our students, employees and visitors is our top priority.

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